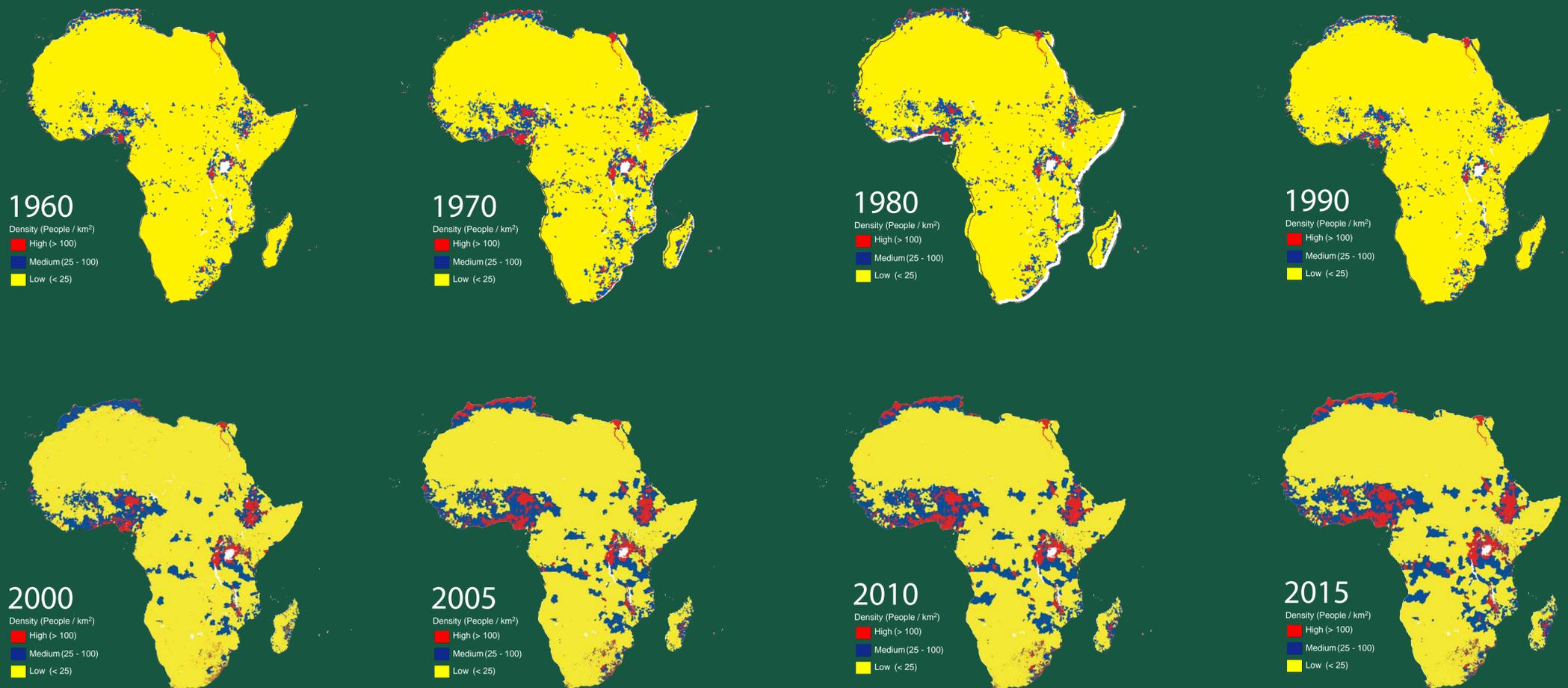


# Africa's Lakes

## Main Findings



The aim of the atlas is to show changes within Africa's lakes in an integrated manner through the use of Remote Sensing technologies and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and case studies on selected lakes. It uses satellite images to document, assess and vividly show the changes in and around Africa's lake basins over the past several years.

This approach provides policy makers with relevant up-to-date information to help them assess and monitor the trend and direction of changes taking place within the lake's ecosystem so that adequate policies can be developed for better management and sustainability of the lakes.

- There are 677 lakes in Africa serving as a source of livelihoods for many African communities
- Population growth around Lake Victoria, the largest lake in Africa, is significantly higher than the rest of the continent
- There are 15 natural lakes and 60 river basins crossing political boundaries of two or more countries; the Congo Basin is shared by 13 countries and occupies 42 per cent of Africa's land area and sustains over 44 per cent of the population
- Some lakes in central Africa, namely Lake Monoum, Nyos and Kivu, are known as 'killer lakes' for the catastrophic natural events that have occurred in their vicinities
- Threats to Africa's lakes include rapid population growth, invasive species, extreme variability of climate and rainfall, desertification, and pollution